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Problems of a Growing Church

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PROBLEMS OF A GROWING CHURCH

II Timothy 4:1-5

Preventative vs Remedial medicine

INT: Evangelist's duties described in text. Purpose of lesson.
 From grassy fields to beautiful and servicable building.
 Size: 800 capacity. Bible School 500. Membership now: 250.
 Advantages in our favor: 1. Room for growth. 2. Accessibility
 3. Faith proved by trial. 4. Spirit of love-great!
 What growing pains can we expect? Anticipate possibilities.

I. INCREASING NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS. WHAT KINDS?A. Faithful and Devoted Children of God. Matt. 13:23.

1. Strong ones who will strengthen us. Power for good.
2. Faithful ones who will encourage us. Speed growth.
3. Dedicated to God and will stimulate us. Elevate us.
4. Sympathetic and will help us solve our problems.

B. Half-dedicated Christians. Matt. 13:22.

1. Half-strong and sap strength of others. On and off.
2. Half-faithful. Unpredictable. Grow in spite of these.
3. Half-sympathetic. First to complain. Last to help.
4. Needs: To read more, pray more, work more, love more.

C. Young and Inexperienced Christians. Matt. 13:21.

1. Youth either in age or experience in church.
 2. Characteristics of this group. A problem group.
 - a. Supercharged but ignorant. Romans 10:1-3.
 - (1) Going to settle all problems in 10 days. Sorry!
 - (2) Take extreme positions (false teachers) and do harsh and rash things. Harm church.
 - (3) Fly off on wild crusades and upset members.
 - (a) To members: Don't believe everything you are told without proper investigation and especially if it is negative and off color.
- Usually growing pains fade away in time!!

D. False Teachers and Religious Quirks.

Gone to

1. Always teach false doctrine as "Gospel Truth". Seed.
2. Teach Pet Ideas as God's only begotten idea. Try idea.
3. Would upset peace and harmony of Lord's Test it!
 church to gratify personal lusts of all kinds.

II. HOW DO WE HANDLE ABNORMAL SITUATIONS WHEN THEY ARISE? 17:1-2

- A. If a Brother offend me? Matt. 18:15-17.
- B. If I find I have offended a brother? Matt. 5:23-24.
- C. One who persists in sinning against God? II Tim. 5:20.
- D. Sower of discord among brethren. Romans 16:17.
- E. Murmuring family? List 6 complaints. Then leaders visit.

III. WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR US?

- A. Greater opportunities than ever before.
- B. Greater responsibilities than ever before.
- C. Greater results than ever before.
- D. And greater attacks than ever before from Devil,
from within and without. Just lean on Lord.
- E. Richer and fuller fellowship in larger family.
 - 1. Older members enjoy older member's fellowship,
but forget not the new and young members.
- F. A steadfast, unmovable congregation, always abounding
in the work of the Lord.
 - 1. What it takes to abound?
 - a. More faithful members. Best faith, best members.
 - b. More praying members. Best prayers, best mem.
 - c. More working members. Best workers, best mem.
 - d. More loving members. Best at loving, best mem.
 - e. More sacrificial givers. Best givers, best mem.
 - (1) Not most giving, but best! Spiritual.
 - 2. A faithful, loving, praying, working, giving
congregation cannot be harmed by Satan.

INV: EVERYONE IN THIS AUDIENCE IS DOING SOMETHING IN REGARDS
TO THE LORD'S CHURCH. BOOSTING OR DRAGGING.

- 1. Negligent members. On Devil's side. Souls lost. R-P.
- 2. Homeless Christians. Time to settle down. Invited here
- 3. Non-Christians. Enjoying advantages of Christ and
His church, but are not appreciative.
Would become Christian if did!

B-R-C-B